

the first National Guard unit to arrive on the scene following the attacks of September 11, 2001. In the hours after the attacks, the Battalion assisted medical teams treating the wounded and helped significantly in rescue and recovery operations. The Battalion worked through the night and into the morning of September 12th, when they were directed to secure the perimeter around Ground Zero. This mission continued for the next 315 days. During this time, Battalion soldiers were also deployed to secure the bridges and tunnels leading to and from Manhattan. Additionally, the unit's armory was the initial support center for family members of World Trade Center victims.

In closing, I ask that my colleagues also recognize and honor the tremendous courage of Lt. Gerard Baptiste, a Fighting 69th soldier who died on September 11th while on duty as a New York City Firefighter. Lt. Baptiste gave his life to help rescue those who were trapped in the north tower of the World Trade Center. I hope that Lt. Baptiste's friends, family and fellow soldiers will accept my sincere condolences for their loss.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my distinguished colleagues rise and pay tribute to the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry of the New York National Guard. All Americans should be grateful for the dedication demonstrated every day by both the men and women of the Fighting 69th and all of the brave soldiers serving in National Guard and Reserve units throughout our nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. AMOS CROOMS, JR.

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Amos Crooms, Jr., who passed away February 15, 2004.

Mr. Crooms spent most of his adult life in public service and his selfless dedication is an inspiration for us all. He enlisted in the Navy in 1959 and was assigned to the USS *Topeka* when it was deployed to respond to the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962.

After Mr. Crooms' honorable discharge from the Navy in 1963 he returned to Detroit and joined the Detroit Police Department in 1967. He served on the front line of law enforcement by working in the newly created mini-stations on narcotics, undercover operations, and recruiting. As one of Detroit's finest, he received many citations for his 26 years of service.

Mr. Crooms' dedication to public service has inspired many of his family members and friends to pursue careers in public service. His devotion to his country, family, and the city of Detroit will be remembered, and the city is a better place for his contributions to the community.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to pay tribute to the life and work of Mr. Amos Crooms, Jr. and express my deepest condolences to his family and to all who knew and loved him.

IN RECOGNITION OF MINORITY CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Minority Cancer Awareness Week. This national campaign was initiated by Congress in 1987 to heighten awareness of the unequal hardship of cancer borne by racial and ethnic minority populations and other medically underserved communities.

Despite all the progress that has been made in the battle against cancer a disproportionate burden of cancer continues to plague a number of populations. For instance:

African-American men have the highest rate of prostate cancer in the world and the lowest rate of survival. The head of the American Cancer Society, Charles J. McDonald, MD, says: "Black men in America are 1.5 times more likely to develop prostate cancer and are 2 to 3 times more likely to die of the disease than white men."

Cancer is the leading cause of death for Asian American women.

Even controlling for poverty level, African American, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian American and Pacific Islander men all have a lower 5-year survival rate than non-Hispanic white males.

The consequences of inadequate access to preventive services and early detection are that diseases like cancer are more often diagnosed at later stages when the severity is likely to be greater and options for treatment, as well as the odds of survival, are decreased.

The American Cancer Society urges more education about all forms of cancer and stronger involvement of community grassroots organizations, particularly in underserved minority communities, to engage in advocacy and in education and patient support initiatives.

I urge us all to heed the recommendations of the American Cancer Society because the future of America as a whole will be influenced substantially by our success in improving the health of minorities and other medically underserved populations.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO EXTEND THE FARM CREDIT ACT OF 1971 TO THE FISHING INDUSTRY

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, the Farm Credit Act of 1971 allows the Farm Credit Administration to oversee and regulate banks and associations to provide long-term and short-term credit and financial services to farmers, ranchers, producers, and commercial fishermen in all 50 States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. In many parts of the country, Farm Credit is an important and significant lender to the farming and commercial fishing industry. Over one-fourth of the total credit used by farmers and fishermen derives from the FCA through a network of Farm Credit Banks, Federal Land Banks, Production

Credit Associations, and Banks for Cooperatives.

Under the current law, Farm Credit institutions are also authorized to finance individuals furnishing farm-related services related to their operating needs including custom fertilizers, irrigation installation, and land leveling services. It has been brought to my attention by a local Farm Credit institution in my District that a similar authorization to provide credit and financial services for individuals furnishing services to producers and harvesters of aquatic products does not exist. As a result of this limitation, Farm Credit institutions are not authorized to finance businesses such as boat repair shops, net makers, ice suppliers, or dock operations that provide necessary services for commercial fisherman.

This omission in the Farm Credit Act means that Farm Credit institutions cannot serve the commercial fishing industry in the same manner that they currently serve the farming industry. The Farm Credit Act clearly states that it includes fishermen, but then does not go on to include those who support the industry in the same way it includes those that support the farming industry.

An amendment is needed to the Farm Credit Act to authorize Farm Credit institutions to serve businesses that provide services related to the operating needs of producers and harvesters of aquatic products. This bill would extend the Farm Credit Act to numerous commercial fishing industry providers such as boat repair shops and dock operators that provide the necessary business needs to these fishermen.

I urge my colleagues in the House to support this legislation.

REINTRODUCTION OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the bipartisan Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2003, along with Representatives PELOSI, SKELTON, FRANK, BALDWIN, ROS-LEHTINEN, KOLBE, FOLEY, SHAYS, and more than 170 other original cosponsors.

There is no more important time in the history of this Nation, since the civil rights era, to pass legislation that sanctions hate violence. The FBI has reported a dramatic increase in hate motivated violence since the September 11 terrorist attacks which has sent a wave of fear through our immigrant communities. While the overall crime rate has grown by approximately 2 percent, the number of reported hate crimes have increased dramatically from 8,063 in 2000 to 9,730 in 2001, a 20.7 percent increase.

Although it is unclear how many of the 2001 reported hate crimes were directed at individuals in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks, we do know that the number of reported "anti-Islamic" crimes increased from 28 in 2000 to 481 in 2001, which represents an increase of over 1600 percent. In addition, the number of hate crimes directed at individuals on the basis of their national origin/ethnicity more than doubled—from 911 in 2000 to